selective approaches in counter-terrorism cannot yield sustainable results and it should be combated in consistent, sustained and comprehensive manner without any double standards. The Sides also agreed to coordinate action against all factors that feed international terrorism, including its financing, illegal drug trafficking and trans-national organized crime.

The Ministers agreed that India, Russia and China, as countries with growing international influence, can make substantive positive contribution to global peace, security and stability. In this context, the Ministers exchanged views on various regional and international issues of concern. They agreed that cooperation rather than confrontation should govern approaches to regional and global affairs. While welcoming India's joining the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) as an observer country, the Foreign Ministers of Russia and China stated that they would actively facilitate early realization of mutually beneficial contribution of India to the SCO.

The Ministers paid specific attention to the high potential of trilateral cooperation and synergy in the economic field. The Ministers reiterated the considerable potential for mutually beneficial economic interaction among the three countries in areas such as energy, transport infrastructure, health, high technologies, including IT and biotechnology. Recognizing the important role of the business and industrial circles of the three consistently growing and large economies, the Ministers agreed to advice their respective apex business bodies to organize a trilateral business forum taking into account the capabilities and potential of the three countries. The Ministers agreed to monitor this process with a view to facilitating the agreed business meeting which would take place during 2007.

The Ministers expressed satisfaction at the results of the trilateral meeting in New Delhi and agreed to hold their next meeting in China.

New Delhi;

February 14, 2007.

Detention centre in Guantanamo

1851. SHRI MOINUL HASSAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of Government has been drawn to the ongoing world outrage over the detention centre established by the Incident Command System (ICS) at Guantanamo five years back on January 11, 2002; and

(b) if so, the steps Government have taken against this inhuman torture activities of the US there and pressure to wind up Guantanamo detention centre?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes.

(b) India believes in protection of human rights and the observance of rule of law, and considers ill-treatment and abuse of prisoners abhorrent. Government of India's views regarding the need to address public perceptions of their policies have been made known to the concerned Government.

Meeting of delegation of U.S. Jewish organisation

1852. SHRI SHAHID SIDDIQUI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a high level delegation of U.S. Jewish organization met P.M. last month; and

(b) if so, the purpose of this meeting?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) A delegation from the U.S. of the Board of Directors of American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC) made a courtesy call on the Prime Minister on January 23, 2007.

(b) During the meeting, matters related to India-US bilateral relationship and ways to strengthen it were discussed.

Hindus in Pakistan and Bangladesh

1853. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn towards press reports